Cyngor Cymuned Cilybebyll
Cilybebyll Community Council

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held Remotely via *GoTo Meeting*, on Tuesday 07 July 2020 at 7:00 pm

Presiding Councillor S Williams

Present Councillors C Jones, D Jones, Y James, I Jones, A Melen, L Rees, E Hastings, S Atkins, A Threlfall, R Stephens, A Thomas

Apologies Councillors M Spooner, D Atkins, R Lewis

30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Jones declared an interest in item 6 Planning applications.

31 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held online on 02 June 2020 be confirmed as a correct record.

32 MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 20 Matters Arising – Clerk reported that she had contacted OVW regarding Section 137 payments advice. OVW explained that the Power of Well-being Local Government Act 2000 enables Councils to make grants to individuals where it can be clearly demonstrated that such expenditure serves to enhance the economic, environmental or social well-being of the community. OVW suggested that the payment for the hall hire requested be paid directly to the school. RESOLVED that Eagles After School Club be awarded the grant.

Further to Minute 27 Board of Governors, Rhos Primary – Cllr R Stephens reported that there had not been a meeting of the governors due to Covid-19 restrictions and this will be looked at in September. RESOLVED that this matter be re-visited.

Further to Minute 29 Any Other Urgent Business – Cllr R Stephens reported that he had enquired as to the water supply for the allotments but that the pipe tested by Dwr Cymru was no longer accessible. Clerk to speak to Rhos FC to see if they have access to the water supply for the pavilion building. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk explained that she and Cllr M Spooner had received an email from A Jenkins (allotments) to report that the allotments had been broken into on numerous occasions over the past few months. He suggested that a security light be purchased. Members agreed that this should move ahead asap. RESOLVED that Clerk contact Rhos FC to see if they would be prepared to provide the electricity from the pavilion building, if not then a solar light could be purchased.

33 FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

RESOLVED that the following accounts be approved for payment –

53B-57B)	Staff	Wages, Expenses)	2778.13
58B	City & County of Swansea	Pension Contributions	898.45
59B	HMRC	Income Tax and NI	226.85
60B	Corona Energy	Gas: Alltwen CC	159.31
61D	Non-dom Rates	Alltwen CC	342.00
62D	Non-dom Rates	Rhos CC	380.00
63B	Cotton & Sons	Handsan Kits (Alltwen Covid Vol.)	225.00
64B	Lliw Building Suppies	Paint Brushes and Oil	212.19
65B	Avanti	Gas: Rhos CC	85.70
66B	N Parr-Williams	Expenses (Apr-Jun 2020)	142.47

RESOLVED that the sum of £5,500.00 be transferred from the Council's Business Banking Account to its Current Account.

34 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED that no objection be made to the following application –

P2020/0519	TPO Oak Tree	21 Corner Meadow Rhos SA8 3DR
P2020/0466	Conversion of garage to living area, plus replacement parking	29 Ynys Y Mond Road Alltwen SA8 3BA
P2020/0532	Two storey rear extension with wrap around	63 Pen Yr Alltwen, Alltwen SA8 3EA
P2020/0572	Side extensions	26 Waun Daniel, Rhos SA8 3HR

RESOLVED that Clerk forward decisions to NPT CBC.

Members would like more information regarding the roof of the following application as it is unclear from the plans whether this is a flat or pitched roof.

P2020/0573	Single storey rear and side extension	87 Neath Road, Rhos SA8 3EH

RESOLVED that Clerk contact NPT CBC for further information.

35 MAINTENANCE

Footpaths: Clerk reported that Aled (footpaths officer) contacted her to report that local residents have been told that footpaths are now open, but some are reporting that farmers are stopping them from using the paths. RESOLVED that Cllr C Jones ask NPTCBC for clarification.

Clerk reported that Aled also reported that there are many low-hanging branches on many of the council's footpaths. He suggested removal of these at the end of the season. Members would like a list of affected footpaths and an estimate of amount of work required. RESOLVED that Clerk contact Aled for further information.

Cllr Y James reported that some of the trees on the cycle path at the Alltwen end need cutting back as some of the branches are low-hanging. Cllr C Jones reported that NPTCBC usually cut these twice a year but due to Covid-19 restrictions, this may not have been done. RESOLVED that Cllr C Jones speak to Nick Thomas, NPTCBC for information.

Lon Tan Yr Allt Playground: Clerk reported that the goal-end has been installed. Cllr C Jones reported that the surfacing had also been completed but that the new turf had not been installed as yet. Chair suggested that Clerk contact Suttcliffe to enquire regarding the turf before any invoice is paid. RESOLVED noted.

Rhos Park Playground – Phase 2: Clerk reported that Gary (Sutcliffe Play) had emailed with a start date for phase 2 - 20th July 2020. RESOLVED noted.

Playgrounds (General): It was reported that there has been no update from Welsh Government on when playgrounds are to re-open. RESOLVED that they stay closed until further guidance received from Welsh Government.

Clerk reported that ROSPA will be carrying out the playground inspections over the next couple of weeks. They will also assess the BMX track. RESOLVED noted.

Alltwen Monument Light: Cllr A Melen requested that the light be properly installed on the monument. Cllr C Jones explained that a volunteer was completing the work and he will install the light asap. RESOLVED noted.

36 COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Rhos: Clerk reported that the caretaker had contacted her with concerns regarding re-opening. She had read guidance that stated that the hall would need to be cleaned between each group. This would be impossible as the hall is so well-used. Clerk explained that no direction has come from Welsh Government as yet therefore no decisions can be made regarding the re-opening of the centres until information and guidance is received. RESOLVED noted.

It was suggested that the cost of any extra cleaning staff required could be recouped from the cost of the hall hire but this decision will need to be considered once more guidance is received. RESOLVED noted.

It was suggested that a flow-through route be identified for the main hall. Clerk to speak to caretaker regarding this. It was suggested that the Project Committee

could carry out risk assessments before re-opening. At this time, only Slimming World and the Dog Group have shown an interest in returning but other groups may be interested in due course. RESOLVED noted.

Alltwen: Clerk reported that the main hall is currently being painted by the caretaker and handyman. They decided to paint the ceiling as well as the walls. RESOLVED noted.

The caretaker reported that the kitchen does not need painting at this time. RESOLVED noted.

Clerk reported that a quote had been received for fixing the roof of Alltwen Community Centre of £630.00. If new slates are needed, this will be done at an additional cost. Members agreed that this was a fair price. RESOLVED that works proceed.

37 TREE SURVEY FOR RHOS PARK

Clerk reported that Cllr M Spooner had received various comments on the state of some of the trees in Rhos Park. Clerk suggested getting an up-to-date tree survey so that works can be planned. Members agreed. RESOLVED that Clerk obtain quotes for surveys.

38 REVIEW OF RECENT RE-OPENING OF RHOS AND GWYNFRYN PARKS

It was reported that the dog mess bins in Gwynfryn Park are overflowing and one has been burned. Cllr C Jones stated that the bins are emptied by NPTCBC street care team. Due to Covid-19 there are staff shortages in the team. It was suggested that a dog mess bin be placed in or next to Lon Tanyrallt Park. RESOLVED that Cllr C Jones look into this further. Cllr E Hastings reported that the dog mess bins in Rhos Park were OK. RESOLVED noted.

It was reported that groups have been drinking at Gwynfryn Park. RESOLVED that PCSO's be informed and keep an eye on this.

It was reported that there is increased litter in parks at the moment. RESOLVED that Clerk speak to Handyman regarding this mater.

39 DATE FOR AGM (TO BE HELD ONLINE) AND DECISION ON REMOTE MEETING SOFTWARE

Members agreed that the AGM should be held online in September 2020. RESOLVED noted.

Members discussed online software options for remote meetings, including *MS Teams*, *Zoom* and *GoTo Meeting*. It was decided that *Zoom* would be the

preferred option due to its ease of use. Clerk stated that payment for any online software subscription would need to be by debit or credit card payment. Clerk suggested that she contact *Zoom* to find out if they would accept Direct Debit or BACS payments. If not, then members agreed that Clerk should obtain Debit card for council account in order to pay for *Zoom*. RESOLVED noted.

40 CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED that the following items of correspondence be noted –

1	L Dale, Welsh Hearts	Defibrillator Campaign
2	P Egan, One Voice Wales	Section 137 funding advice
3	Cllr C Jones	Rat problem
4	Cllr R Lewis	BT Kiosk & Cilybebyll Walk

1 Members stated that there were enough defibrillators in the area at this time. RESOLVED noted.

2 Advised that funding could be awarded to Eagles After School Club but that the council should pay the money directly to the school for the use of the hall by the after school club. RESOLVED noted.

3 Cllr C Jones had complaints from Alltwen residents regarding Rats. Cllr L Rees stated that there is a big rat problem all over the country at the moment due to lockdown. Rats are looking for food and are visiting places they wouldn't normally visit. Residents stated that NPTCBC stated that it was a Community Council problem as the rats are using the Community Council's footpath. Members stated that this could not be seen as a Community Council issue as the council is only responsible for maintaining the path and no rats would be living on the path itself. Clerk stated that it would be impossible and unsafe to put poison on the footpath due to members of the public using the path with children and dogs. It was suggested that residents may be confusing the Community Council with Tai Tarian as the properties affected would need to deal with this problem. RESOLVED that Cllr C Jones liaise with residents and inform them that they should contact Tai Tarian for clarification on this matter. RESOLVED that Clerk contact environmental health to inform them of this matter.

4 Cllr R Lewis reported via phone call that he had seen a notice in the BT kiosk stating that BT are looking to remove it. He is keen for it to be kept. RESOLVED that Clerk put a notice on Facebook regarding the consultation so that local residents can comment. Cllr R Lewis asked whether or not the footpath, Cilybebyll Walk was a distinctive path. Cllr Y James stated that the path was signposted but that Pontardawe side of the path was better signposted than the Ystalyfera side. It was suggested that the sign near Ystalyfera could be moved/renewed to make it stand out more. Cllr Y James stated that it is easy to identify the path if walkers have a footpaths map. RESOLVED that Clerk contact footpaths officer to take a look at the sign at the Ystalyfera side of the path.

41 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Clerk reported that plans show that the area of land behind 39 Edward Street containing the knotweed does in fact belong to the community council. Members agreed that the NPTCBC knotweed removal programme be started as soon as possible. RESOLVED that Clerk contact NPTCBC.

Cllr A Melen reported that a local resident had commented how lovely the view is from the church memorial garden, off Derwen Road, Alltwen. She suggested that the council purchase a bench seat for the garden. It was suggested that a bench be costed and considered when setting the budget for 2021-22. RESOLVED noted.

The meeting ended at 8:45pm.

Signed Dated 01 September 2020